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Page B1

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Brandywine begins search for the next superintendent

By **DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Correspondent

NILES — Brandywine Board of Education members have started the process of selecting a new superintendent. Current Superintendent Travis Walker announced last month that he has been chosen to be the new superintendent of the Ludington Area Schools district. His tenure is set to begin July 1, pending contract negotiations.



WALKER

Those firms were the Michigan Association of School Boards, the Michigan Leadership Institute and the West Michigan Education Research and Development Foundation.

Board members held a special meeting Wednesday night to hear proposals from three search firms. Walker has been the superintendent since 2022 and previously was the middle/high school principal in the district. He also was a high school principal in Constantine before coming to Brandywine. Walker was one of two fi-

nalists interviewed for the Ludington job and was chosen by the board in late April. Published reports indicated that the Ludington board cited his experience as a superintendent including developing budgets and uniting a divided district as reasons for choosing him. Walker said this week that he is in the process of negotiating a contract with the Ludington district. He is a native of Manistee, Michigan and

has degrees from West Shore Community College, Central Michigan University and Grand Valley State University. His tenure at Brandywine has featured the passage of a \$22 million bond issue proposal in 2024 to fund a number of projects including a new Career and Technical Education Center and a new Performing Arts Center at the middle/high school as well as a new gym at Merritt Elementary.

Pokagon Twp. treasurer earns inaugural MTA award

By **PMG STAFF**

POKAGON TOWNSHIP — Pokagon Township Treasurer Kevin Young was honored for his years of service to his peers at the Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference & Expo with the Association's inaugural "Volunteer of the Year" award. Young was presented with the award before nearly 1,000 of his fellow attendees on April 22 during an awards ceremony at the banquet held during MTA's Annual Educational Conference & Expo in Acme Township. Young, who has been treasurer since 2004, has volunteered at every MTA Annual Conference he has attended, more than 20 in all. Young's volunteer efforts include serving as a Conference sergeant-at-arms, monitoring and assisting classrooms during the event's 50-plus educational sessions. The vital role of volunteers not only helps MTA's annual event run smoothly, it is also a critical facet of every Michigan community. "Thank you to MTA for recognizing me as the first honoree of 'Volunteer of the Year' and to my township board for their support," said Young, who also serves on the township planning commission. "There are always opportunities to volunteer, whether it is at the MTA Conference, in your own township or in your area or broader community."

In addition to serving at the Annual Conference, Young also volunteers for his church, Morris Chapel United Methodist in Niles Charter Township, and the Berrien County Youth Fair. He is active in the Grange, including as treasurer and fundraising director of the Michigan State Grange, treasurer of the Cass County Grange, and president at the local level. More than 40 township attendees from across the state volunteer each year at the MTA event, helping to ensure the state's largest municipal conference & expo runs smoothly. "Volunteers don't show up for recognition — they step up because they care. MTA's Volunteer of the Year Award is about shining a light on those who make a lasting difference, and our inaugural honor couldn't go to anyone more deserving," said MTA Education Director Shelley Cardenas. "For 20 years, Kevin Young has given far more than his time — he's brought unwavering commitment, a passion for service and a willingness to serve, year after year (after year!). His dedication to serving his fellow officials alongside MTA staff is truly admirable. Team MTA simply couldn't deliver the township event of the year without the energy and support of our greatest champions — our volunteers — and Kevin exemplifies the very best of that spirit."



Photo provided

Kevin Young was named Volunteer of the Year by the Michigan Townships Association.

SMC graduates 13-member class of nursing students

By **JOHN EBY**
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College welcomed 13 new nurses Wednesday to America's largest health care profession with more than 4.3 million registered nurses nationwide. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a need for more than 200,000 new RNs each year to meet demand and replace retiring nurses. SMC's spring class received associate degrees in nursing (ADN) in a pinning ceremony in the theatre of the Dale A. Lyons Building on the Dowagiac campus. The class joins the ranks of 3,244 SMC nursing graduates. In his welcome, President Dr. Klint Pleasant shared the



Photo provided

Southwestern Michigan College graduated 13 nurses from its program Wednesday.

harrowing story of his wife experiencing headaches diagnosed to be a malignant brain tumor and a nurse, Meg, he credits

for saving Rachel's life. "I love and appreciate nurses very much," Pleasant said. "Nurses and individuals who care for us medically are the

best of the best in our society. In August 2005, my wife started to complain of a horrible headache. While we were waiting for the surgery to

ensue, I went home one day from work to check on her and found her unresponsive. I thought she had passed. "I feverishly called 911," Pleasant said. "An ambulance took her to the hospital. In the emergency room, they quickly did a CAT scan. She had what is called a midline brain shift. There was so much swelling in her head, her brain shifted in her skull. You usually don't survive those. The doctor said there was nothing he could do. She needed brain surgery right now. They were calling Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit to get her transferred. "There was a nurse. Her name was Meg. Meg never left Rachel's side. While we waited for Henry Ford

See **NURSING**, page A3

ELECTIONS Berrien voters show support for proposals, renewals

By **PMG STAFF**

The majority of the bond proposals and renewals in Berrien County were approved during Tuesday's special election. From school bonds to public safety millages, voters showed support for all proposals with the exception of one ballot measure. Here's a rundown of how the millages fared during Tuesday's election by municipality and school district.

Baroda Township

Baroda Township had three millages up for a vote Tuesday night, with the two renewal proposals being approved. The lone millage increase was denied by voters. The public safety millage renewal was overwhelmingly approved with 66 percent of the vote, by a 341-169 tally. The renewal will be used for the continued operation of the Baroda-Lake Police Department and levied for four years through 2030. It is estimated the amount of revenue to be generated from the millage in the first year will be \$442,636.34. The fire equipment fund millage renewal also received a 66 percent approval rate, by a 341-168 voting tally. The renewal will be used for emergency fire services within Baroda Township and levied for four years through 2030. It is estimated the levy will generate \$136,500 in the first year. However, the proposed public safety millage increase for police services was denied by 66 percent of the vote. As an inverse to the renewals, the millage increase proposal was voted down by a 340-169 margin. The four-year levy would have raised \$186,000 in its first year.

Bridgman schools

Bridgman Public Schools received a boost of support Tuesday as voters approved a bond proposal and operating millage renewal by wide margins. The \$21.4 million bond proposal secured 76 percent of the vote for the remodeling, furnishing and equipping of school buildings. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be is for 24 years. The operating millage was approved by 82 percent of voters, by a 1,012-216 voting margin. This renewed millage is for 10 years through 2036.

Coloma schools

The Coloma Community Schools bond proposal was passed by voters, with 52 percent in support of the measure. According to unofficial results from the Berrien County Clerk's Office, the bond was approved by a 753 to 681 voting margin. The \$8.7 million bond will be used for the remodeling

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Today's obituaries • **Page A3**

Jossep Jarmusz Charles Yahne Donna Gorham
Janice Darr Everett Potter Elizabetth Dorgan



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FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

- SMC's Friday night collage celebration of music was amazing. Thank you to all involved.
- The Rotary Track Meet continues to show that southwest Michigan has some of the best athletes in the state.
- There is a famous quote by Goethe that sums up the time we are living in. The coward only threatens when he feels safe. Let's stop enabling the cowards before it's too late.
- The Chieftains are Lakeland Conference softball champs once again. Congratulations, ladies.
- I'm pretty sure the majority of crimes being committed in the South Bend/ Niles area are by U.S. citizens.
- Congratulations to our high school's honored seniors. Your community thanks you for the hard work.
- Thank you to everyone who put the Scott Novak Memorial Cup together. A great way to honor a great man.
- Can we just get a week of normal?
- Irony that the MHSAA makes the football playoff seeding changes now after what happened to Niles last year. Better late than never, I guess.

WEATHER

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 60. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 57.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38.

Tuesday: Showers likely, mainly after 2p.m.. Partly sunny, with a high near 62. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Blossomtime royalty visit Niles, Dowagiac



Blossomtime Royalty visited Brentwood at Niles Monday on the first leg of their Good Will Tour Week.

Photos provided



By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Niles and Dowagiac hosted Blossomtime royalty Monday.

The Blossomtime Kings and Queens kicked off their Good Will Tour Week with stops in Niles and Dowagiac. The pageant winners began their day in Niles with breakfast at the Grand LV before a brief parade through downtown Niles led Miss Niles 2026 Kennedy Holloway, Mr. Niles 2026 Nathan Breland and Mr. Blossomtime First Runner-Up Beau Kirtdoll. The group concluded the Niles leg of their tour by visiting Brentwood to meet with residents and perform a dance number.

From there, the Blossomtime royalty visited Patrick Hamilton Elementary School in Dowagiac. Each royalty member was escorted into the gymnasium by an elementary student. The group then performed a dance number for the students assembled and answered their questions. When asked why they visited the school, Miss Blossomtime 2026 Taylor Costanza, who represents Dowagiac as Miss Eau Claire/Sodus/Dowagiac, said it was important for everyone to represent the communities that support them.

The group capped its Dowagiac leg of the tour with a brief parade down Front Street in downtown Dowagiac. Blossomtime Royalty will continue to tour southwest Michigan ahead of the Blossomtime Parade scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday in St. Joseph.

Established in 1906, Blossomtime is recognized as Michigan's oldest and largest multi-community festival. The local Miss Dowagiac Scholarship Pageant, which will crown its next court in January, is currently not affiliated with the festival.

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OBITUARIES

Donna K. Gorham

April 21, 1948 – April 24, 2026

Donna K. Gorham, age 78, of Cassopolis, Michigan, passed away peacefully on April 24, 2026, at her residence, in Cassopolis from natural causes. Donna was born on April 21, 1948, in Benton Harbor, Michigan, to the late George and Elaine (Holtz) Letke. She grew up surrounded by the values of hard work, faith, and family that would guide her throughout her life.

After graduating from Dowagiac Union High School with the Class of 1966, she went on to build a life marked by devotion to those she loved and service to her community. On September 9, 1977, Donna married Larry Gorham in Cassopolis, Michigan, and together they shared a long and devoted marriage. Larry survives and will forever carry the memory of their years together. Their home was one filled with love, laughter, and the steady presence of a woman who cared deeply for her family and created a warm and welcoming place for all who entered.

Donna is also survived by her four children, Lori Gorham, Lindsay Gorham and her husband Terry Pflug of Cassopolis, Cale and his wife Tabitha Gorham of Battle Creek, and Kyle and his wife Kelley Gorham of Bangor. She was a proud and loving grandmother to her thirteen grandchildren, each of whom held a special place in her heart.

Donna devoted eighteen years of her career to serving as a bookkeeper in the Social Services Department for the State of Michigan before retiring. She approached her work with care, responsibility, and integrity, earning the respect of those who knew her professionally. Faith was an important part of Donna's life, and she was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cassopolis, Michigan.

As a Christian woman, she lived with kindness, humility, and generosity, reflecting the values she held dear. Don-



na enjoyed many simple and meaningful pleasures. She loved gardening, both vegetables and flowers, and found satisfaction in tending to her plants and watching them grow. She also enjoyed canning, baking, and sewing, and she took pleasure in creating and preserving things with her hands. She was an avid bird watcher and enjoyed watching soap operas. Above all, she treasured time with her grandchildren and the special memories created with them.

For the last twenty-five years, she and Larry also cherished their winter home in Florida, where they enjoyed time away and the comfort of familiar routines. Memorial contributions may be made in Donna's memory to Elara Caring Hospice Foundation. In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place and her family will remember her privately at a ceremony at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Cassopolis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com. Those who knew Donna will remember her as loving, kind, and generous. She had a gentle spirit and a caring heart, and she offered warmth and encouragement to those around her. Her presence brought comfort, and her life was a blessing to her family and friends. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Janice F. Darr

September 5, 1939 – April 29, 2026

Janice F. Darr, 86, formerly of Dowagiac, passed away on Wednesday morning, April 29, 2026, at Corewell Lakeland Hospital in Saint Joseph, Michigan. Born on September 5, 1939, in Independence, Missouri, Janice was the daughter of Clarence and Anna Gregg. She shared a remarkable life with her beloved husband, Donald J. Darr, whom she married on July 29, 1961.

During their marriage, they shared love, dedication, and many memories. She had a passion for antiques and could often be found searching for that one special treasure, always with an eye for beauty and history. She was also a talented and creative spirit who loved tole painting, expressing herself through her art and the pieces she lovingly created. She loved beautiful clothes and jewelry.

Janice cherished her family. She will be remembered for her strength, creativity, and the love she gave to those around her. She is survived by her children, Kirk Darr and Kristy Fedore; grandson, Nickolas (Kara) Fedore; step-grandchildren, Travis Fedore, Justin (April) Fedore, Brett Fedore, and Tania (Travis) Meyers; great-grandson, Noah Fedore, who brought her much joy; niece, Kathy (David) Grubbs; and nephew, John (Amy) Milburn.

Janice was preceded in



death by her husband, Don; her parents; and her sister, Rita "Charline" Milburn. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

A service to celebrate Janice's life will be held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 12, at Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with his family from 1:00 PM until the time of service. Interment will follow in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac.

Memorial contributions in Janice's memory, may be directed to Shriners Children's at www.shrinerschildrens.org, or Salvation Army at www.salvationarmyusa.org. Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Janice's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Elizabeth Dorgan

July 16, 1931 – May 4, 2026

Elizabeth Arzelie Dorgan, 94, of Oswego, IL passed away on May 5, 2026. Elizabeth was born on July 16, 1931 in Dowagiac, MI to Edward and Virginia (Otin) Dorgan. She graduated High school in Dowagiac. Elizabeth was a devout Catholic and went on to become a nun for 20 years at the Sister's of St. Joseph in Kalamazoo, MI. While she was a nun, she taught elementary 5th and 6th grade in several Michigan schools. Later on she would also work at the

post office in Lake Zurich, IL.

She was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Sandwich.

Elizabeth is survived by 2 nieces, Debra and Diane, and a nephew, Danny.

She is preceded in death by a brother, Richard Dorgan.

A private graveside service will take place at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to Beverage Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.beveragefamilyfh.com

Joseph 'Joe' Jarmusz

August 9, 1952 – April 23, 2026

Joseph Paul "Joe" Jarmusz, Sr., 73, of Niles, died peacefully Thursday, April 23, 2026, in the comfort of his home with his family by his side. His life began August 9, 1952, in Chicago, Illinois, being the youngest of three born to Lawrence and Serena Jarmusz. He married Karin Widman June 2, 1973, in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Joe was a great friend and an even greater family man. At the center of his life was his wife, Karin, with whom he shared a lasting partnership built on commitment, loyalty, and love. He was a dedicated provider who worked tirelessly to support his family, always striving to set an example of what hard work, responsibility, and perseverance could look like.

He spent much of his life in the car business, a field he was deeply passionate about – even if he often described work as "peachy" with a knowing smile. Outside of work, Joe was an avid and highly skilled fisherman, with enough knowledge and gear to rival a small tackle shop. He was also a natural storyteller, able to captivate a room for hours with his humor and charm.

Joe enjoyed crafting and building models, but nothing meant more to him than time spent with his community and family. He dedicated himself to coaching local youth in football and basketball, taking pride in mentoring and encouraging the next generation. He was incredibly organized and dependable, always making sure he showed up for his family's events – whether it was sports, recitals, or cheer-leading – never missing a chance to support them.

A lifelong and devoted fan of the Chicago Bears, Joe's passion for the team was unmatched. From an extensive collection of memorabilia to



tattoos that proudly displayed his loyalty, being a Bears fan was more than a hobby – it was part of who he was. It also became a way for him to connect with others, bringing together family and friends through shared excitement and tradition.

His greatest pride was the life he built with Karin and the family he worked so hard to support.

Joe will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Karin Jarmusz of Niles; sons, Joey Jarmusz of Bartlett, Illinois, Johnny (Tara) Jarmusz of Bridgman; one granddaughter, Alyssa Tagliere of LaPorte, Indiana; two grandsons, Elliott of Ottawa, Illinois, Easton of Bridgman; and sister, Gerry Kawohl of Woodbury, Minnesota.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Joe to be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105, or by visiting stjude.org/donate.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Charles Allen Yahne

May 7, 1960 – May 2, 2026

Charles Allen Yahne, 65, of Mishawaka, died suddenly, Saturday May 2, 2026.

His life began May 7, 1960 in Buchanan the second of six children born to Gerald and Nancy Yahne.

Chuck, also known as Chuck Mouse, among other things, was an avid outdoorsman. His camper was his safe place. He loved to fish, hunt and just enjoy being in nature. Chuck also loved people. To Chuck, everyone was family and he saw no one as a stranger. Even the kids at Pitcher Lake Campground called him Uncle Chuck. He could make everyone comfortable with his sense of humor.

Chuck will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by one sister, Ronda (Tim) Danley of Niles; four brothers, Jerry (Carol Harman) Yahne of Mishawaka, Mike Yahne of Grand Rapids, Denny (Vickie) Yahne, Keith Yahne of Niles and a host of nieces and nephews and his good friends



Jeff and Dave. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Josh Yahne.

The family will observe a private remembrance. The family prefers contributions in memory of Chuck be made to Jerry or Denny Yahne.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

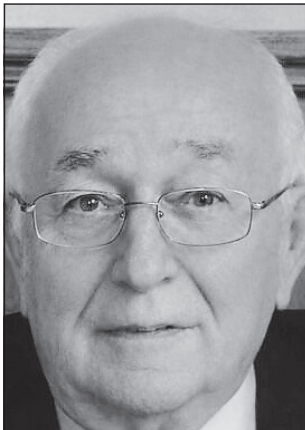
Everett 'Bill' Potter

January 12, 1942 – March 30, 2026

Everett "Bill" Potter, 84, of Dowagiac, passed away Monday evening, March 30, 2026 at The Timbers of Cass County in Dowagiac, MI. He was born on January 12, 1942, in Benton Harbor, MI, the son of the late Everett A. and Virginia A. (Radde) Potter.

Bill graduated from Dowagiac Union High School in 1959 and Lake Michigan College, earning an associate's degree in 1961. He continued his education at Adrian College where he earned a bachelor degree in secondary education in 1964. Bill was a Wood Shop teacher at Dowagiac Union High School for many years. He later worked for the State of Michigan as an employment interviewer.

Bill was a life member of the Free & Accepted Masonic Peninsular Lodge #10 in Dowagiac. He joined the lodge in 1965 and held many positions over the years, including Worshipful Master for 5 years. Bill was a life member of the Order of the Eastern Star, where he was a worthy patron 18 times. He was a member of DeMolay International, where he held every position during his 35 year membership. Bill was also a 4-H leader for 25



years, where he taught ceramics, basket making and wood burning.

Surviving are his sister, Beverly Juroff; one niece, one nephew and extended family. Preceding him in death were his parents; long-time partner, Cheryl Ladd; and sister, Patricia Dwyer. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, May 15, at Riverside Cemetery, 400 Riverside Dr, Dowagiac. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Bill's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

NURSING

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to come get Rachel, Meg quite literally kept Rachel alive. When the ambulance showed up in the middle of the night, Rachel was just barely hanging on. The neurosurgeon flashed a light in Rachel's eyes and they did not dilate. He goes, 'We're in real trouble.'

"They did a six-hour surgery, removing her skull to do a procedure and it's touch and go.

"A few years after that," he said, "I wanted to reconnect with Meg because I knew Meg was the reason she survived. Meg and I are still in touch."

"While I'm grateful for the team of neurosurgeons, I'm most grateful for Meg," Pleasant said. "You have a chance every day to change a life, to serve people, to come alongside, to love people, to care for someone and to not only make a difference in someone's life, but an entire family's lives. That's the work you get to do. Nurses have made a difference in my life, and I hope you never forget the power you have. Thank you for choosing SMC."

Dr. Melissa Kennedy, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Services, addressed graduates employing nautical analogies.

"Tonight feels a bit like standing at the edge of a shoreline," she said. "Behind you is a land that you've come to know, familiar, shaped by classrooms, clinicals, long nights and early mornings. Ahead of you is open water. Unpredictable and full of possibilities.

"In nursing, we spend so much time preparing you to navigate what cannot be fully controlled," Kennedy said. "We teach you skills, knowledge, and critical thinking. There comes a time when you step forward and trust that what you carry within you will be enough to keep you steady. Graduates, tonight's that moment."

"You're not leaving everything behind," she said, "you're carrying it with you – discipline, compassion, resilience – these are your anchors. But you're also being asked to let go of the shoreline, to move into something that cannot be fully mastered in advance. That can feel both exciting and uncertain.

"Here's what I've learned about standing at these edges, whether in nursing or in life," Kennedy said. "There are moments when you can feel the tide begin to shift. It's subtle at first, a quiet awareness that you are being pulled, gently but persistently, toward something new. Not because where you are has no value, but because you have grown within it.

"Sometimes growth asks something even harder of you, to walk away, to step out of roles, environments or expectations that no longer align with who you are becoming. When you do, not everyone will understand. Some may question you. Some may even try to rewrite your story. They may say you're too emotional, too sensitive, too much. They may not see you clearly. They may even try to villainize you.

"Their confusion is not your failure. It's simply that they do not carry what you carry. They do not have your love, the kind that stays, that listens, that shows up even when it's hard. They do not have your compassion that sees humanity in every patient, every family, every moment. They do not have your empathy that allows you to connect beyond words. They do not have your grit, the strength to keep going when you're exhausted, your guts, the courage to speak up, to advocate, to stand firm. Your selflessness, your self-awareness, your humility, your honor, your integrity.

"What they cannot understand they may try to diminish, but what you carry is not weakness, it is the very heart of a nurse. A meaningful life in nursing is not about standing still, it's about learning when to hold steady and when to step deeper into the water."

"You will be in spaces where people are at their most vulnerable," Kennedy said, "and you will be present at moments of fear, hope, loss and healing. In those moments you may still feel the pull of uncertainty, but you will also feel something stronger, purpose. Purpose will steady you."

Kennedy urged graduates to do three things: stay aware of the tides "around you and within you," have the courage to step forward "when you feel called" and "trust that even in unfamiliar waters, you are prepared. It has been a privilege to stand alongside you on the shore. Congratulations, graduates, the water's waiting."

Graduates include: Tahiri Bakoliarmanana Kida from South Bend, Emilee Demski from Sodus, Grace Dockerty from Berrien Springs, Joshua Flanagan from Niles, Jeffery Haines from Cassopolis, Alyssa Haskins from Dowagiac, Emily Martin from Benton Harbor, Nadia Mata from South Haven, Meridith McWilliams from Marcelus, Jaime Meahl from Buchanan, Bailee Shambaugh from Mishawaka, Lindsey Smith from Dowagiac and Sarai Ugalde Pacheco from Hartford.

Nadia Mata was presented a Lamp of Knowledge in recognition of the peer-selected Florence Nightingale Award embodying selflessness, compassion, thoughtfulness, team play, dependability, generosity and humility.

SMC's nursing faculty includes Chair Rona Godrich, MSN, RN; Stacey Dwyer, MSN, RN; Rebecca Eichler-Toth, BSN, RN; Haley Lim, MSN, RN; Haley Lowe, MSN, RN; Yolanda Roche, MSN, FNP, RN; adjuncts Megan Austin, DNP, MBA, RN; Lynn Behrens, BSN, RNC; Emily Burandt, BSN, RN; Brian Edgerly, BSN, RN; Jeanette Clark, BSN, RN; Allison Coleman, BSN, RN; Michelle Mercado, BSN, RN, NPD-BC; Jessica Pethick, BSN, RNC; Lisa Pulling, BSN, RNC; Emma Schroeder, MSN, RN; Donna Stiver, MSN, RN; and Alisa Ventrone, BSN, RN.

Mollie Grabemeyer is the nursing success and retention coach. Administrative assistant Victoria Christen coordinates the simulation lab.

VOTERS

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and equipping of school buildings; acquiring instructional technology; and preparing, developing and improving the junior high school site.

Eau Claire schools

Eau Claire Public Schools narrowly passed its bond proposal and secured its operating millage renewal from voters Tuesday.

The \$7 million bond proposal was approved by just eight votes, with a 324-316 margin. The bond will be used for remodeling and equipping school buildings, which includes HVAC improvements.

The operating millage renewal received 60 percent of the vote, posting a 389-250 voting margin.

River Valley schools

The River Valley School

District's operating millage proposal was approved by 68 percent of voters. The proposal will allow the school district to levy 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law.

The seven-year operating millage levied by the school district is estimated to raise about \$262,333 in its first year.

Watervliet

The Watervliet police protection services millage renewal was approved overwhelmingly by voters. Among the 155 votes, about 70 percent were in favor of the millage renewal.

In support of the continued operation of the Watervliet Police Department, the 4.84 millage renewal will be levied for four years through 2029. The millage is expected to raise an estimated \$216,974.17 in the first year.

Suspect ID'd in officer-involved shooting

By PMG STAFF

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP — Police have identified the suspect who was fatally shot by police officers following a home invasion that took place in Jefferson Township Wednesday afternoon.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office identified 46-year-old Edwardsburg resident Tony Duaine Artusi as the suspect in the May 6 home invasion in Jefferson Township.

At approximately

12:08 p.m. Wednesday, the Cass County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a male caller in the 29000 block of Davis Lake Street in Jefferson Township. The caller stated that Artusi was at the house, had kicked in the front door, and was armed with a handgun. Another 911 call came in seconds later from a female at the residence stating her husband was in her house and was armed.

Deputies arrived on scene and contacted both callers,

who had run out of the back door of the residence. While speaking with the callers, it was noticed that the house was on fire. The callers stated that they believed that the Artusi had fled north from the house into the woods. Deputies set up a perimeter around the area and requested help from other agencies. As the investigation continued officers were advised that a subject fitting Artusi's description was seen in a field off Harris Street.

Deputies, along with MSP Troopers, responded to the area and spotted Artusi on the railroad tracks. MSP Troopers attempted to contact Artusi when shots were fired. A second call received put the suspect near Pine Lake Street and Harris Street. Deputies, along with MSP Troopers, contacted Artusi in a field where an exchange of gun fire caused the Artusi to become incapacitated. After determining that Artusi was non-responsive, officers

approached him and began to render first aid.

Ambulance arrived on scene and attempted to administer aid to the Artusi, who succumbed to his injuries.

All Officers involved in the shooting are being investigated by the Michigan State Police 6th District Investigative Response Team. The suspect is identified as a 45-year-old male from the Edwardsburg area. Family has been given notification.

Deputies were assisted in

the investigation by Michigan State Police, Edwardsburg Ontwa Township Police, Cassopolis Village Police, Pokagon Band Tribal Police, Edwardsburg Fire Department, SMACS Ambulance, and the Cass County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Unit.

The investigation remains ongoing and anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Cass County Sheriff's Office or the Michigan State Police Niles Post.

SMC announces its Art Award winners

By JOHN EBY

Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Dr. Klint Pleasant revealed himself as a Pearl Jam fan in presenting his first President's Choice to Eau Claire's Arly Fitzgerald's oil painting April 28 at the SMC Student Art Show Award Ceremony.

Pleasant quipped that he was tempted to boycott the proceedings in solidarity with frontman Eddie Vedder.

Vedder holds a dim view of judging art, particularly competitions, awards or rankings. Art is subjective, for expression and connection – not competition – Vedder said at the 38th Grammys on Feb. 28, 1996.

Pleasant said the art and history galleries have quickly become his two favorite spaces on campus.

"I'm an artist," Pleasant said. "I make oil canvases and lamps out of recycled wine bottles. I am a huge Pearl Jam fan and have followed them around the country. I wanted to boycott this in a neat way because I loved every piece. I went around, and I went around again, but one kept drawing me in. I like it so much I want to find a way to buy it."

The Peer Choice Award, determined by popular voting, went to a charcoal drawing by Isabella Wier of Niles.

Fitzgerald, who was homeschooled, painted an image she found online, mesmerized by the lighting in a stairwell.

"I love orange and blue together like that," she said. "My sister (Macy) came here and absolutely loved it, and it's close to home, so I could stay at home and save. I graduate (May 9), then I'm moving up to Kalamazoo. I really



SMC President Dr. Klint Pleasant presents the President's Choice Award to Eau Claire's Arly Fitzgerald April 28.

love art, but I really love history, so I'm kind of stuck on what to focus on. I know art's going to be involved in my future. I'm undecided. I love the environment and am thinking of doing something with that."

"I'm so excited" that her painting spoke to President Pleasant. "That's so amazing, that out of all these incredible things he saw mine. That's wonderful! And I am a Pearl Jam fan."

Wier's charcoal drawing pays homage to her favorite TV show, "Peaky Blinders," a British crime drama set in post-World War I Birmingham.

It focuses on the Shelby crime family led by Tommy Shelby (Cillian Murphy).

The Netflix series aired from 2013-22 and follows their rise from a local street gang notorious for sewing razor blades into their caps to a powerful criminal organization.

Her 1920s ensemble provided a clue to another aspect of her passion in art – fashion.

Foundations (2D/3D)

First place: Ethan Gorman

Judge's Merit: Aidan Gellschap and Kingston Rice

Drawing

First place: Kaleb Mccombs

Judge's Merit: Hayden

Arnosky and Isabella Wier

Graphic Design

First place: Christian Anderson

Judge's Merit: Hannah Mannoia and Kaylee Seabolt

Painting

First place: Aarika Morse

Judge's Merit: Casey Cadwell and Sammy Linn

Photography

First place: Hayden Arnosky

Judge's Merit: Echo Kuipers and Kaiden Black

President's Choice Award: Arly Fitzgerald

Peer Choice Award: Isabella Wier

Photo provided

Whirlpool is being rattled by rising costs – that now means higher prices for customers

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN

Associated Press

Whirlpool appeared to be in a prime position to thrive, producing about 80 percent of its major appliances at American factories at a time when President Donald Trump has emphasized domestic manufacturing jobs and more production at home.

This week, however, the company said that revenue dropped nearly 10 percent in its most recent quarter and sales of major appliances in North America tumbled 7 percent.

The company that also produces KitchenAid and Maytag products said that the Iran war has led to a "recession-level industry decline" that has shaken consumer confidence.

Whirlpool announced a 10 percent price hike in April, its largest in a decade, and said

that a separate 4 percent price increase will happen in July to address "multiyear inflationary cost pressures."

The company had absorbed the higher costs, choosing not to pass them on to customers, but that must change after the company posted a first quarter loss of \$82 million, reversing last year's gains.

CEO Marc Bitzer said Thursday that the North American slide in sales has a precedent.

"This level of industry decline is similar to what we have observed during the global financial crisis and even higher than during other recessionary periods," he said during a conference call.

Whirlpool said that its performance has been impacted by the Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down Trump's emergency tariffs. Rival appliance makers are seeking refunds to reduce the

impact of those tariffs, disrupting pricing in the industry further.

The Benton Harbor, Michigan, company estimated that the tariff impact on its competitors was about 10 percent to 15 percent, while the impact on its business was around 5 percent, according to details in its earnings presentation.

But with consumers already worried about high grocery prices and escalating gas

prices, many are holding off on big-ticket purchases like major appliances and instead trying to make due with what they already have.

"People are looking at the price of replacing appliances and realizing it's not something they want to deal with right now," Mark Stevenson, managing director and product designer at Stove Shield, said in a statement. "Instead, they're asking how to avoid the damage in the first place."

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OPINION

WRITE US: Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:
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Regular mail: Editorial Page, Leader Publications, 25 N. 2nd St., Niles MI 49120

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Some overlooked home repairs (and why do they matter?)

By **ANGIE HICKS**
Ask Angi (TNS)

This time of year, many homeowners turn their attention to spring projects and outdoor upgrades. But before diving into what's next, it's important to take a closer look at what the colder months may have left behind. Winter can quietly take a toll on your home – and some of the most common issues are also the easiest to

overlook. The freeze-thaw cycle can impact your home's exterior in ways that aren't immediately obvious. Small cracks in siding, driveways or your foundation can form as materials expand and contract in cold temperatures. These cracks may seem minor, but they can widen over time, allowing water to seep in and cause more serious damage. Another commonly overlooked issue is flooring

damage inside the home. Seasonal moisture changes can cause wood floors to expand, shift or become uneven, leading to loose boards or small gaps. While these issues may seem cosmetic at first, they can become safety hazards or worsen over time if not addressed early. Outdoor fixtures are another area where hidden damage can surface. Freezing temperatures can cause hoses, sprinkler systems and

outdoor faucets to crack – even if they weren't in use. These issues often go unnoticed until you turn the water back on, potentially leading to leaks and water waste. Finally, don't overlook decks, patios and walkways. Exposure to snow, ice and salt can weaken materials, loosen boards and create uneven surfaces. Beyond appearance, this becomes a safety concern, increasing the risk of trips and falls as

you begin to spend more time outside. It's also worth checking areas that are easy to ignore during colder months, like basements and attics. Look for signs of moisture, insulation issues or pests that may have taken refuge during the winter. Catching these early can help prevent more extensive damage as temperatures continue to rise. The transition into spring is one of the most important

times of year for home maintenance. Taking a proactive approach now can help you avoid emergency repairs, protect your investment and keep your home running smoothly. For anything beyond a quick fix, working with a skilled pro can help ensure the job is done right – saving you time, stress and often money in the long run. *Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.*

Maybe oven temperatures really do matter

By **DANIEL NEMAN**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (TNS)

This isn't the column I wrote. The column I wrote was about how people needlessly obsess over trying to get the temperature in their oven or the flame on their stove precisely correct. I'm here to tell you that I made my arguments succinctly and well. Using a combination of personal experiences and history that literally went back to Paleolithic times, I made the case that people don't have to fixate on the temperature when they cook. Don't sweat it, I said. The temperature doesn't make that much of a difference, I said. Hakuna matata. The thing is, I don't think I was right. Last weekend, I cooked a leg of lamb on the grill. I started with a marinade by Julia Child (Dijon mustard, soy sauce, crushed garlic, rosemary, powdered ginger) and then I added a twist of my own: plain yogurt. This is one of my favorite things to do on a grill. If I'm making an overnight

marinade and the flavors are strong enough, I like to mix in some yogurt. Yogurt gently tenderizes the meat and keeps it moist. At the same time, it adds a slight and delightful tang to the flavor. I wanted to cook the meat at 350 degrees, but the grill heated faster than it usually does (and I was paying bills, so I was perhaps less attentive to it than I should have been). I checked the temperature after 15 minutes, when it would usually be around 300 degrees. It was 400 degrees, edging toward 425. I have a charcoal grill with ceramic lining, so it retains heat especially well. That's great for cooking – exceptional, really – but the only drawback is that it is difficult to lower the temperature once you've heated it too high. So I put the lamb on the grill and closed the cover. "What's 75 degrees among friends?" I said, remembering the column I had written. "Hakuna matata." Hakuna matata my eye. I obsessed about that hunk of lamb in the grill as if it were a newborn baby and

I were a first-time father. I returned to the grill again and again, fiddling with the air vents, trying to bring the temperature down. I opened the grill a couple of times to let the heat out, like opening the door to an oven, but the temperature glided back up to 425. I eventually managed to get the temperature down to a little over 400 degrees. But a 4- or 5-pound leg of lamb only takes an hour or so to cook, especially at 400 degrees, so I could only do so much about the heat. I pulled the lamb off the grill at an internal temperature of 130 degrees and let it rest for 20 minutes. Because the meat continues to cook even after it is removed from the heat, that should have brought it up to a perfect medium-rare temperature of 135. Ah, but I cooked the meat at better than 400 degrees. That means the outer part of the meat was hotter than it would have been if it had been cooked at 350, and meat cooks from the outer part inward. What I'm saying is, my lamb turned out to be medi-

um instead of medium rare. It was still spectacular. I still ate way too much of it. The yogurt trick worked to perfection. And I have plen-

ty of leftovers for several days' worth of lunches. But it was not quite the lamb I wanted. And more to the point, I realized that

the column I had written was thoroughly and entirely inaccurate. It's a pity. You would have liked it.

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BOARD OF HEALTH

BCHD secures \$150K rural health grant

Mobile unit to provide off-site services, screenings

By LOUISE WREGE
Paxton Media Group

BENTON TOWNSHIP — The Berrien County Health Department may soon be able to reach rural residents who lack transportation, thanks to a \$150,000 state grant.

The department was approved to purchase a mobile unit through the Transforming Rural Health Through Partnerships grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Health Officer Guy Miller told members of the health department’s Board of Health on Wednesday.

“The mobile unit will provide WIC, our family planning services and our immunization services off-site, as well as doing some chronic disease screenings,” Miller said.

Once the grant funds are accepted by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, he said they can buy from another local health department the mobile unit, which is the size of a 24-foot camper van.

After the meeting, Miller said the mobile unit has one exam room, a lab area and a bathroom.

“Our primary focus is going to be on getting our resources out into areas of Berrien County that are hard to get to or even harder for people to get to us in our two locations in Benton Harbor and in Niles,” Miller said. “We want to help people access our programs and services.”

Berrien County commissioners approved the health department applying for the grant in February.

“Berrien County, for the most part, is pretty rural. We’re not going to limit our services to one area, but we do want to connect the rural areas in Berrien County to the urbanized areas in Berrien County ... through a mobile unit,” Miller said during the meeting.

He said he has talked with 13 of the 15 public libraries in the county and with Corewell Health (Lakeland) about partnering with the health department.

“(Libraries) are pretty busy

during the summer,” he said. In addition, Miller said they will rotate two blood pressure kiosks through the public libraries two weeks at a time during the summer. The kiosks were donated to the health department earlier this year from the American Red Cross, he said.

Stepping down

Long-time member of the Board of Health, Duane McBride, said his five-year term expired in April and he decided to step down.

“I’ll be 80 on May 24. I decided not to seek reappointment,” McBride said. “But I have told the county that I’m willing to serve until they find a replacement, so this may or may not be my last board meeting.”

He said he started serving in 1994 at the age of 47.

“It’s been an incredible honor to serve on this board,” he said. “I’ve been through, I think, five health officers.”

McBride said one of his proudest moments was when Berrien County was the first West Michigan county to go smoke-free.

“I just think it’s time for a younger voice,” he said.

Other items

Members approved several resolutions as part of their consent calendar after discussing them.

They included asking the board of commissioners to:

■ Accept \$50,000 from the Michigan Fitness Foundation to support community-based nutrition, education and food access initiatives to support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

■ Allow the health department to continue leasing space with St. Mary’s of the Lake at 704 W. Merchant St.

in New Buffalo for \$1,510 per month to provide WIC and related services.

■ Accept \$1,500 from Honor Credit Union for a Back to School Bash in August.

■ Accept a \$6,680 scholarship from Botvin LifeSkills Training to buy its educational materials to support expanded programming throughout the county.

■ Authorize the department to reapply for \$50,000 in grants from the United Way of Southwest Michigan for three programs: Nurse Family Partnership, Positive

Parenting Program and Raising Up Healthy Babies.

■ Allow the department to apply for a \$10,000 mini-grant from Tobacco Free Michigan to fund a temporary position to lead a comprehensive tobacco and nicotine assessment in the county.

■ Accept \$3,200 from the Fair Food Network for the Double Up Food Bucks program, which matches purchases made by customers at the Benton Harbor Farmers Market who are purchasing items using SNAP.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Cass County to host brownfield opportunities informational session

By PMG STAFF

CASS COUNTY — The Cass County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority will host an informational session on brownfield opportunities on Wednesday, May 13, from 7 to 9 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers at 120 N. Broadway St., Cassopolis.

The open house-style session will provide practical, accessible information for those interested in redevelopment opportunities across Cass County. Attendees are welcome to stop in at any time, with a brief presentation scheduled for 8 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

The session is designed for a wide range of participants,

including property owners, developers, investors, contractors, architects, engineers, local businesses, municipal officials, planners and other community stakeholders.

Cass County was recently awarded a \$300,000 brownfield grant to support site assessments and planning activities. This funding allows the County to better identify redevelopment opportunities and reduce barriers for projects that may otherwise be difficult to advance.

Participants will learn about available resources, the brownfield redevelopment process, and how these tools can support investment and revitalization efforts throughout the county.

“This session is intended

to help people better understand how brownfield tools can support redevelopment in their community,” said Ambrosia Neldon, chair of the Cass County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. “Whether someone is exploring a potential project or simply wants to learn more, we want to make this information approachable and accessible.”

Those with questions or who would like additional information may contact the Cass County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority at brownfields@cassco.org.

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Page B2

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Teams continue seasons at Rotary Track Meet

By BEN SANDERS
Paxton Media Group

ST. JOSEPH — Local track and field teams have had an impressive start to the season, and that was on display at Friday’s Rotary track meet at St. Joseph.

“It’s a golden era for Southwest Michigan track right now,” Berrien Springs coach Jon Rodriguez said. “I love this meet, it’s so fun to showcase our little area.”

The Rotary meet returned to its traditional format without team scores after keeping them for the first time last season. Berrien Springs fared well, with its boys and girls teams each winning six of the 17 events.

“We’ve had a really hard schedule,” Rodriguez said. “Today we got here and had a chance to win some things, and our kids took advantage.”

Louis Rome led the Shamrock boys by winning both the 110 hurdles (15.88) and 300 hurdles (40.63). Zi’Merian Jones won the 200 (22.74) and Braelin Hurst came in second in the 100 at 10.90, just behind Niles’ Ben Bruckner (10.83). Jones and Hurst also teamed up to lead Berrien Springs to victory in the 400 relay (43.74) and 800 relay (1:31.66), and Darrin O’Dell won the pole vault (13-0).

Kathryn Bergan had a big day for the Berrien Springs girls with wins in the shot put (30-9) and discus (108-7). Zion Ellis won the 100 hurdles (15.58) and Felicity Lall took first in the 100 (12.46). Just as the Shamrock boys did, the girls also took the 400 relay (50.66) and 800 relay (1:47.22), as Lall and Ellis teamed up with Adeline Weber and Anoah Hamilton.



Don Campbell / HP staff
Berrien Springs’ Braelin Hurst anchors and wins the boys 4x200 meters relay Friday during the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Track Meet.

See **TRACK**, page B5

MHSAA OKs new format for football playoffs

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has approved a new football playoff format.

The new format, approved by the MHSAA Representative Council, will seed teams at the regional level rather than just the district level, aiming to create a more balanced postseason bracket across the state.

The change to designating football playoff pairings using a Regional seeding model was a recommendation from the MHSAA Football Committee. Beginning with this fall’s postseason, the playoff field in each of eight 11-player divisions will first be organized into eight-team Regionals. The eight teams in each Regional will then be seeded based on playoff-point average, with seeds 1, 4, 5 and 8 comprising one District and seeds 2, 3, 6 and 7 comprising the other. The winners of those Districts will play in the Regional Final.

The Representative Council is the 19-member legislative body of the MHSAA. All but five are elected by member schools. Four members are appointed by the Council to facilitate representation of females and minorities, and the 19th position is occupied by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee.

The Council also took a formal step in ongoing discussions about MHSAA championships, approving a Classification Committee recommendation to create a “study group” made up of representatives from member schools to analyze school demographics, championship data at all levels of MHSAA tournaments and success factors – with those findings then used to assist in future classification processes.

Other notable Spring Meeting actions taken by the Representative Council, which will take effect during the 2026-27 school year, include:

Regulations

The Council considered current game suspension guidance when activities are affected by inclement weather and approved an addition to current guidance to state a contest must be suspended if an independently validated lightning-detection device or mobile weather application indicates a lightning strike without 10 miles of the event location. The same devices or applications also may be used to eliminate uncertainty if no thunder can be heard but lightning flashes are observed low on the horizon and possibly farther than 10 miles away.

The Council also approved a regulation that a student enrolled at an MHSAA member school may not participate as an unattached or non-school participant in any regular-season school contest.

See **MHSAA**, page B5



The Buchanan boys golf team won the inaugural Scott Novak Memorial Cup Wednesday at Four Lakes Country Club.

Photo provided

Cassopolis, Buchanan golf earn Leader Cup hardware

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — The Cassopolis and Buchanan boys golf teams earned trophies at the annual Leader Cup Wednesday at Four Lakes Country Club.

New to this year’s tournament was the division of the six participating teams into two flights, the Leader Cup flight and the Scott Novak Memorial Cup flight. Cassopolis took home the the Leader Cup trophy for winning its flight while the Bucks won their flight to earn the inaugural Scott Novak Memorial Cup trophy.

The Rangers, led by William Westrate, Turner Westrate, Alan Wegner and Dickson Samadder, shot 282 to win their second consecutive Leader Cup at the tournament. Edwardsburg placed sec-

ond in the Leader Cup flight with a score of 290 and Niles third with 310. Caden McMahan, Tyler Frame, Jacob Kuntz and Dean Wegner led the Bucks to victory in the Scott Novak Memorial Cup flight with a score of 300. Brandywine placed third with a score of 327 and Dowagiac third with 365.

“Our team played excellent golf and limited their mistakes,” said Buchanan coach Mike Beasley. “They capitalized on their scoring opportunities and adapted to the challenges that the course threw at them.”

The Scott Novak Memorial Cup trophy was created to honor longtime Leader Publications Sports Editor Scott Novak, who passed away in October 2024 following a 42-year career dedicated to local sports. Novak and former Buchanan golf coach Amelio Ro-

driguez created the Leader Cup in 2016 as a way to feature the six schools that Leader Publications covers – Brandywine, Buchanan, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg and Niles.

The tournament has become one players and coaches alike look forward to every year.

After taking home a trophy Wednesday, Beasley believes his team can carry the momentum through the remainder of the season and into regionals.

“We have a strong senior class,” he said. “They have used years of experience to provide steady leadership to the younger players and to be mentally strong through mid-round obstacles and high-stakes pressure. We have a few more conference matches left and are looking to finish strong to win the conference for the first time

in a long time. Ultimately, we are looking to regionals and know that if we play our best, we can compete to get a chance to play at state.”

LEADER CUP

at Four Lakes CC
Team scores – Leader Cup Flight: 1. Buchanan 300, 2. Brandywine 327, 3. Dowagiac 365; Scott Novak Memorial Cup Flight: 1. Cassopolis 282, 2. Edwardsburg 290, Niles 310
Medalists – William Westrate (C) 68; Turner Westrate (C) 68
Cassopolis – William Westrate 68, Turner Westrate 68, Dickson Samadder 73, Alan Wegner 73, Colt Whitmyer 90, Jayden Pflug 90
Edwardsburg – Maverick Gates 72, Michael Wright 72, Joseph Shively 73, Brandon Vanoverberghe 73, Caleb Schaap 82, Ethan Haas 82
Buchanan – Caden McMahan 72, Tyler Frame 72, Jacob Kuntz 78, Dean Wegner 78, Ryan Hickok 79, Austin Gregory 80
Niles – Gavin Luke 75, Max Rucker 75, Landon Martin 80, Blake Hopper 80, Brandon Walsh 88, Dillon Pearnman 88
Brandywine – Jayden Thomas 72, Davis Lotsbaich 72, Brady Schoff 91, Blake Magyar 92, Nolan Shaffer 94, Cody Hoskin 94
Dowagiac – James Greene 81, Jeremiah Bond 81, Mason Austra 100, Emmett Roach 103, Austin Hart 108, Kyler True 109



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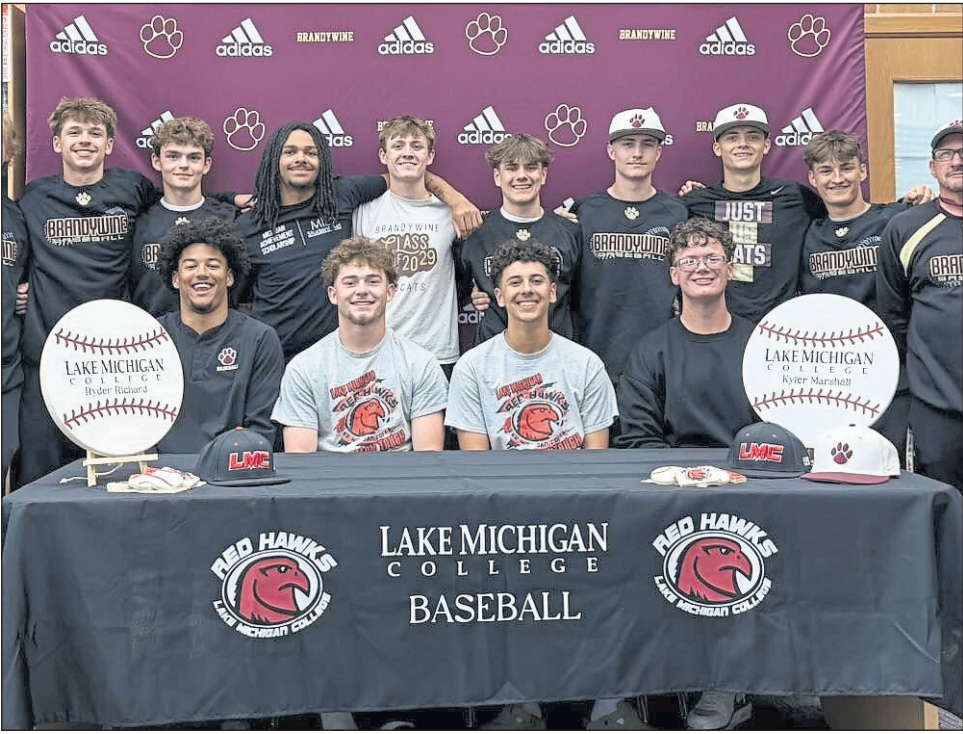
Area athletes sign with colleges

PMG STAFF

Several area athletes are taking their talents to the next level. Niles volleyball standout Tanaya Brown recently signed on to play volleyball for Ka-

lamazoo Valley College. Brandywine baseball's Ryder Richard and Kyler Marshall will be taking the diamond next spring at Lake Michigan College. Dowagiac wrestler Weski Wesaw will bring his talents to

the mat at Southwestern Michigan College while Cassopolis hooper Ryley Bowsher will suit up for Kellogg Community College. Edwardsburg's Makhaya will play softball for Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana.



Brandywine, Edwardsburg climb in state's baseball rankings

PMG STAFF

Brandywine and Edwardsburg are once again ranked in the top 10 of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association poll. The Bobcats (15-1-1) are ranked No. 6 in Division 3 while the Ed-

- 6. Romeo (20-3)
- 7. Mattawan (15-6-1)
- 8. Okemos (15-2-1)
- 9. Detroit Catholic Central (15-9)
- 10. Hudsonville (16-4-1)
- 11. Dexter (17-5)
- 12. West Ottawa (15-9)
- 13. Hartland (12-6)
- 14. Howell (14-6-1)
- 15. Midland Dow (16-4-1)
- 16. Troy (15-6)
- 17. Jenison (18-5)
- 18. Allen Park (14-4)
- 19. Rockford (16-4)
- 20. Novi (16-6)

- 4. Williamston (16-4)
- 5. Edwardsburg (16-3)
- 6. Spring Lake (15-2)
- 7. Saginaw Swan Valley (20-2)
- 8. East Grand Rapids (15-2)
- 9. Dearborn Divine Child (18-2)
- 10. Richmond (17-1)
- 11. Niles (17-4)
- 12. Freeland (17-3)
- 13. Standish-Sterling (14-1)
- 14. Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills (15-1)
- 15. Ada Forest Hills Eastern (16-5)
- 16. Parma Western (16-1)
- 17. Garden City (18-5)
- 18. Grand Rapids Catholic Central (12-6)

- 19. Hopkins (14-5)
- 20. Owosso (17-4)
- Division 3**
- 1. Traverse City St. Francis (15-1)
- 2. Detroit Edison (12-4)
- 3. Jackson Lumen Christi (13-5)
- 4. Brooklyn Columbia Central (12-2)
- 5. Lansing Catholic Central (11-0)
- 6. Niles Brandywine (15-1-1)
- 7. Grosse Pointe University Liggett (11-8)
- 8. Ravenna (16-2)
- 9. Grass Lake (12-4)
- 10. Saginaw Valley Lutheran (9-2)
- 11. Elkton Pigeon Bayport (14-2)

- 12. Whiteford (12-2)
- 13. Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central (5-1)
- 14. Reese (18-2)
- 15. Springport (15-2)
- 16. New Haven (12-0)
- 17. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (15-1)
- 18. Watervliet (12-5)
- 19. Montague (14-3)
- 20. Millington (10-2)
- Division 4**
- 1. Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (19-1)
- 2. Portland St. Patrick (11-1)
- 3. Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Central (16-3)
- 4. Beal City (16-7)
- 5. Petersburg-Summerfield (7-3)
- 6. Vermontville-Maple Valley (13-3)

- 7. Marine City Cardinal Mooney (6-11)
- 8. Royal Oak Shrine (15-4)
- 9. Fulton (10-5)
- 10. Fowler (13-5)
- 11. Rogers City (16-2)
- 12. Harbor Springs-Harbor Light (14-4)
- 13. Indian-River Inland Lakes (9-4)
- 14. Adrian Lenawee Christian (10-2)
- 15. Breckenridge (13-4)
- 16. Frankfort (8-3)
- 17. Byron Center-Zion Christian (9-4)
- 18. Muskegon Catholic (12-2)
- 19. Unionville-Sebewaing (9-8)
- 20. Capecon (12-4)

- Division 1**
- 1. Rochester Adams (17-3)
- 2. BB Rice (19-7-2)
- 3. Oxford (19-2)
- 4. Woodhaven (20-3)
- 5. Bay City Western (18-4)

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

GIRLS TENNIS

May 2 results

NILES 5, KALAMAZOO CENTRAL 1

Doubles — 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Leah Kucharczyk-Genesieve Carroll 7-5, 6-7 (4), 10-6; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlett Thalman (N) d. Emeli Guanon-Naomi Lavender 6-0, 6-3; 3. Sadie Furman-Anna DeYoung (K) d. Azlynn Ingle-Bella Ladesma 6-2, 6-4; 4. Aurora Custard-Carrie Castillo (N) d. Maya Graham-Peyton Biddle 3-6, 7-6 (5), 11-9; 5. Cheyenne Small-Donna Babler (N) d. Elianna Oram-Georgia Jones 6-2, 6-2; 6. Bella Castillo-Mia Abarca (N) d. Izzy Andrick-Audrey Ackerman 6-2, 6-4.

NILES 5, EDWARDSBURG 1

Doubles — 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Nathalie Dufour-Greta Day 6-1, 6-3; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlett Thalman (N) d. Jenna Peterson-Onna Lettler 6-3, 6-3; 3. Azlynn Ingle-Bella Ladesma (N) d. Kendyll Wallace-Reece Kaplan 6-1, 1-6, 10-6; 4. Aurora Custard-Carrie Castillo (N) d. Braddy Hunsberger-Mikayla Shepherd 6-3, 6-2; 5. Cheyenne Small-Donna Babler (N) d. Bella Hankins-Amelia Wright 6-2, 6-1; 6. Abby Ray-Hannah Shull (E) d. Bella Castillo-Mia Abarca 5-7, 6-2, 10-6.

NILES 6, PORTAGE NORTHERN 0

Doubles — 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Lily Ray-Sumaya Siddiqui 6-1, 6-2; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlett Thalman (N) d. Claire McMullen-Julia McMullen 6-0, 6-2; 3. Azlynn Ingle-Bella Ladesma (N) d. Alaya Branch-Sydney Niewenhuis 6-2, 6-0; 4. Aurora Custard-Carrie Castillo (N) d. N/A-N/A 2-0, 2-0; 5. Cheyenne Small-Donna Babler (N) d. Marie Anderson-Sarah Leasure 6-3, 6-0; 6. Bella Castillo-Mia Abarca (N) d. Sonya Prunty-Fari Haidari 6-0, 6-2.

Monday's results

NILES 4, VICKSBURG 4

Singles — 1. Cheyenne Small (N) d. Maya Grossman 6-1, 6-0; 2. Donna Schramer (V) d. Donna Babler 6-2, 6-2; 3. Mia Abarca (N) d. Elise Howard 0-6, 6-3; 4. Madison Kanouse (V) d. Bella Castillo 6-1, 6-1. Doubles — 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Hannah Moyer-Sofia Martin 6-0, 7-6 (2); 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlett Thalman (N) d. Avalie DelaTorre-Solana Sutherland 6-3, 6-0; 3. Alyssa Ambs-Carissa Greer (V) d. Azlynn Ingle-Norah Rogers 6-4, 6-1; 4. Sabrina Hooker-Maria Carrillo Lopez (V) d. Carrie Castillo-Bella Ladesma 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

NILES 8, DOWAGIAC 0

Singles — 1. Cheyenne Small (N) d. Hailey Spivey 6-0, 6-0; 2. Donna Babler (N) d. Kylie Lynch 6-0, 6-1; 3. Mia Abarca (N) d. Makhaya West 6-1, 6-2; 4. Bella Castillo (N) d. Kai Kruger 7-5, 6-0. Doubles — 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Rylan Miller-Riley Huff 6-0, 6-0; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlett Thalman (N) d. Chloe Samuel-Lily Lebeda 6-0, 6-0; 3. Azlynn Ingle-Norah Rogers (N) d. Kendall Kroepel-Olivia Stockwell 6-2, 6-1; 4. Carrie Castillo-Bella Ladesma (N) d. Elizabeth Kelly-Belinda Pavia-Morales 6-1, 6-1.

SOFTBALL

May 2 results

CHELSEA 8, BUCHANAN 7

Chelsea 002 411 — 8 11 1
Buchanan 040 201 — 7 8 2
WP — S. Henriksen. LP — A. Villaire.
Top hitters — Chelsea: E. Root HR, 2 RBI; K. Absher 2 2B, 1B, 3 RBI; A. Sherwood 2B, RBI; M. McCalla 2B, 1B, 3 RBI; S. Henriksen 1B, RBI; M. Kuboushek 1B, RBI. Buchanan: A. Berry 2B, 1B, 3 RBI; R. Berry 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; H. Griffin 2 1B; K. Holloway 1B; T. Carlin 1B; C. Weinberg RBI.

BUCHANAN 11, SOUTH LYON 10

South Lyon 202 141 0 — 10 6 5
Buchanan 021 150 2 — 11 12 7
WP — A. Villaire. LP — E. Meyn.
Top hitters — South Lyon: E. Stidham 2B, 3 RBI; G. Watson 2B, 2 RBI; H. Bissett 2 RBI; M. Furstenau 2B, RBI; M. Rushlow 1B; E. Glowacki 1B; M. Reigle 1B. Buchanan: A. Berry 2B, 2 1B, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg 2B, 3 RBI; R. Berry 3B, 1B, 2 RBI; M. Ely 1B, RBI; T. Carlin 2B, 1B; H. Legault 2 1B; H. Griffin 1B.

LAKESHORE 16, BUCHANAN 1

Buchanan 100 0 — 1 5 1
Lakeshore 13(10) 2 — 16 17 0
WP — A. Ramirez. LP — A. Villaire.
Top hitters — Lakeshore: A. Prosser 3B, 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; S. Roberts 2 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; L. Dustin 2 2B, 2 RBI; L. Fisher 2 2B, 2 RBI; E. Montoya 1B, 3 RBI; A. Ramirez 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; B. Forrester 2 1B; M. Ettinger 2B. Buchanan: T. Carlin 2 1B; R. Berry 1B; C. Weinberg 1B, RBI; H. Griffin 1B.

Tuesday's results

BUCHANAN 15, BRANDYWINE 4

Brandywine 101 20 — 4 5 1
Buchanan 672 0X — 15 16 0
WP — H. Legault. LP — B. Brummitt.
Top hitters — Buchanan: A. Berry 3B, 2B, 2 1B, 2 RBI; S. Roberts 2 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; L. Dustin 2 2B, 2 RBI; T. Heller 2B, 1B, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg 3 1B; M. Ely 2B, RBI; K. Holloway 1B, RBI; H. Legault 1B, RBI. Brandywine: M. Pellow HR, RBI; H. Smith 2B; K. VanSandt 1B, RBI; M. Wetering RBI; S. Krishner 1B; B. Brummitt 1B.

BUCHANAN 10, BRANDYWINE 0

Brandywine 000 000 — 0 7 2
Buchanan 200 215 — 10 14 2
WP — A. Villaire. LP — A. Anglin.
Top hitters — Buchanan: R. Berry HR, 1B, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg HR, 1B, RBI; T. Carlin 2B, 1B; T. Heller 2 1B, RBI; M. Ely 1B, RBI; H. Griffin 1B, RBI; A. Villaire 1B, RBI; K. Holloway 1B, RBI; A. Berry 2B. Brandywine: S. Krishner 2 1B; M. Pellow 2 1B; T. Richard 2 1B; B. Brummitt 1B.

Thursday's results

COLOMA 3, BUCHANAN 0

Coloma 000 201 0 — 3 9 1

Buchanan 000 000 — 0 5 1
WP — M. Harris. LP — H. Legault.
Top hitters — Coloma: M. Harris 3 1B, RBI; L. Murphy 3 1B, RBI; K. Furgeson 1B, RBI; J. White 1B; A. Hill 1B. Buchanan: H. Legault 3B; L. Atkinson 2 1B; A. Berry 1B; R. Berry 1B.

Tuesday's results

Brandywine 101 20 — 4 5 1

Buchanan 672 0X — 15 16 0
WP — H. Legault. LP — B. Brummitt.
Top hitters — Buchanan: A. Berry HR, 1B, 3 RBI; R. Berry HR, 1B, 4 RBI; T. Carlin 2B, 1B, 3 RBI; T. Heller 2B, 1B, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg 3 1B; M. Ely 2B, RBI; K. Holloway 1B, RBI; H. Legault 1B, RBI. Brandywine: M. Pellow HR, RBI; H. Smith 2B; K. VanSandt 1B, RBI; M. Wetering RBI; S. Krishner 1B; B. Brummitt 1B.

Buchanan 10, Brandywine 0

Brandywine 000 000 — 0 7 2
Buchanan 200 215 — 10 14 2
WP — A. Villaire. LP — A. Anglin.
Top hitters — Buchanan: R. Berry HR, 1B, 3 RBI; C. Weinberg HR, 1B, RBI; T. Carlin 2B, 1B; T. Heller 2 1B, RBI; M. Ely 1B, RBI; H. Griffin 1B, RBI; A. Villaire 1B, RBI; K. Holloway 1B, RBI; A. Berry 2B. Brandywine: S. Krishner 2 1B; M. Pellow 2 1B; T. Richard 2 1B; B. Brummitt 1B.

GIRLS SOCCER

May 1 results

DOWAGIAC 4, THREE RIVERS 2

Goals: Johannah McDonald 2, Riley O'Kon-ski, Val Mireles
Assists: McDonald 2, Maya Hernandez, Sabrina Sanchez
Records: 11-1-2

Tuesday's results

NILES 2, EDWARDSBURG 1

Goals — Edwardsburg: Kya Shier
Records — Edwardsburg 3-7; Niles 5-7-3

TRACK

Monday's results



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at 269-362-1566**

Dated: May 2, 2026
File No. 24-006519
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (05-02)(05-23)

Michelle Anderson, Calvin Township Clerk

Prepared By:
John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250)
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

THENCE SOUTH 53 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 43 SECONDS EAST
ALONG SAID TRAVERSE LINE, 272.24 FEET TO THE EAST LINE
OF THE WEST 15 ACRES OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHW-
EST FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE
SOUTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG
SAID WEST LINE, 1089.43 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE
SAID SECTION, THENCE WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 51.40
FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. INCLUDING ALL LAND
BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST LINES EXTENDED NORTH-
ERLY TO THE WATER'S EDGE OF PINE LAKE. PARCEL II RIGHTS
AND BENEFITS OF AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS
OVER THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE. BEGINNING
AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWN 7
SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 02
MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID
SECTION, 16.50 FEET, THENCE EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE
SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 460.15 FEET, THENCE NORTH
18 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 31 SECONDS EAST 38.25 FEET,
THENCE NORTH 05 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST
59.35 FEET; THENCE NORTH 23 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 16
SECONDS WEST 150.88 FEET, THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 15
MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 168.19 FEET; THENCE NORTH 25
DEGREES 51 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST 52.33 FEET;
THENCE NORTH 13 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST
81.66 FEET, THENCE NORTH 14 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 11
SECONDS WEST 135.24 FEET; THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 08
MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST 138.50 FEET, THENCE NORTH 28
DEGREES 17 MINUTES 55 WEST 80.47 FEET, THENCE NORTH
46 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST 84.95 FEET,
THENCE EAST 47.58 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 46 DEGREES 04
MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST 55.84 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 28
DEGREES 17 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST 81.80 FEET, THENCE
SOUTH 07 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 19 SECONDS EAST 140.65
FEET; THENCE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 11 SECONDS
EAST 133.29 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 13 DEGREES 54 MINUTES
10 SECONDS EAST 78.27 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 25 DEGREES
51 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST 54.28 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 07
DEGREES 15 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 168.95 FEET,
THENCE SOUTH 23 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST
151.54 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 05 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 28
SECONDS EAST 71.63 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 18 DEGREES 48
MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST 51.40 FEET TO THE SAID SOUTH
LINE, THENCE WEST 489.38 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGIN-
NING PARCEL III RIGHTS AND BENEFITS OF AN EASEMENT FOR
INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED
REAL ESTATE. FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION
30, TOWN 7 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST, MEASURE EAST, ALONG
THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 471.94 FEET TO THE POINT
OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED, THENCE
NORTH 18 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 31 SECONDS, 17.43 FEET,
THENCE EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SEC-
TION, 45.71 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 15 ACRES
OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL
QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 13
MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, 16.50
FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE WEST,
ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 51.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGIN-
NING. Street Address: 66741 Conrad Road, Edwardsburg, Michigan
49112 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such
sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with
MCLA §600.3241(a) in which case the redemption period shall be 30
days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure
sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant
to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the
person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to
the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption
period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COL-
LECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE
USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU
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PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90
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CLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER
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Dowagiac's McDonald breaks Mazimpaka's scoring record

PMG STAFF

DOWAGIAC — Johannah McDonald continues to re-write history.

The Dowagiac standout scored two goals in a 4-2 victory over Three Rivers May 2 to set the school record for career goals with 111. The previous record was 109 set by Steve Mazimpaka, who starred for the Chieftains from 1994 to 1996.

McDonald recently signed with Goshen College to play soccer at the next level.



Leader file photo

TRACK

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Lakeshore's girls team won four events despite not fielding its strongest lineup.

"The girls are having a phenomenal season," Lakeshore girls coach Stacey Hengy said. "We have a very solid team. We're in big contention to win the regionals, we'll have a good shot of winning the SMAC."

Kate Ort won the 800 with a time of 2:14.08, more than nine seconds ahead of her nearest competitor, Lakeshore teammate Abbie Luckman (2:23.33). Ort's best 800 time is 2:11.12, the top time in Division 2 this season by more than four seconds.

"She's just been dominating that event," Hengy said. "She's going to a big contender to win that at the state finals."

"The girl can run pretty much anything, it's a lot of fun. But we can't let her run everything, which is a bummer."

Other Lakeshore event winners were Lucy Cross in the 200 (25.42), Lydia Dwyer in the 1600 (5:14.59), and Ellington White in the pole vault (8-0).

Defending Division 2 long jump state champion Leigha Whitman did not compete in that event Friday, but holds the best jump in the state this season at 18-9.

The Lakeshore boys team is strongest in the field events. Lancers junior Declin Doroh won the high jump by clearing 6-foot-9, and Edwardsburg's Zachary Overmyer was second at 6-5.

Doroh was the 2024 Division 2 state champion in the high jump, but finished runner-up to Overmyer at last year's state finals.

Doroh holds the Lakeshore school record at 6-10. This year's focus has been consistency, and in nine meets this season he's cleared 6-8 or better eight times.

"We've been working really hard to keep him consistent in his warmup, his approach, everything the same from 6-4 to 6-6 to 6-8 to 6-10," Lakeshore boys coach Beau Deja said. "He's done a great job with that."

Lakeshore's Nathan Wagner also performed well Friday, winning the shot put at 48-2 and placing second in



Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Lakeshore's Lydia Dwyer finishes in first, Bridgman's Emma Pinkowski in second and St. Joseph's Beatrice Perucchetti in third during the girls 1,600 meters.

the discus with a throw of 137-1.

Kaden Griffiths, the two-time defending Division 2 state champion in the long jump, did not compete Friday as he works his way back from an injury, but gives the Lancers another potential big scorer in the regional and state meets.

"Those three guys are big meet point guys, and then everybody else just buying in and being pieces of the puzzle and seeing where we can get points," Deja said.

St. Joseph won two boys events. Seth Randall was first in the 800 (1:58.43) and Jack Humes won the long jump (21-4.5).

The St. Joseph girls also took two events. Charlotte Steel won the 300 hurdles (48.93), and the Bears closed the meet with a win in the 1600 relay (4:27.27).

"I'm really pleased and proud of the way the kids competed today," St. Joseph girls coach Mike Mahler said. "Even with the cold temps, we still had some nice performances, some personal bests."

The St. Joseph girls were without standout sophomore sprinter Trenyse McGinnis due to a hamstring injury. Mahler said the Bears are hoping to have her back for the conference and regional meets.

McGinnis has had an impressive season, setting a new school record in the 400 after doing the same in the 100 and 200 as a

freshman. That completes a family sweep of St. Joseph sprinting records, as her older brother Trey McGinnis holds the boys 100, 200 and 400 records.

"She's worked very hard since last track season, throughout the summer and the winter, to get better," Mahler said. "She's having a fantastic season."

The Red Arrow Raiders, a co-op program of River Valley and New Buffalo, had a strong showing in distance events from the Rogers brothers.

Senior Landon Rogers won the 1600 in 4:23.91 with freshman Mason Rogers coming in second at 4:31.24. Mason Rogers won the 3200 in 9:54.85.

ROTARY TRACK MEET

- Boys**
- Top local performers**
- 100 – 1. Ben Bruckner (N) 10.83; 200 – 2. Isaiah Weatherspoon (D) 22.98; 400 – 1. Mobius Stubblefield (E) 49.65; 800 – 12. Owen Riggensbach (N) 2:20.71; 1600 – 3. John Brickley (N) 4:35.78; 3200 – 11. Charlie Spencer (B) 11:17.42; 110 hurdles – 4. Lyle Schaible (E) 16.19; 300 hurdles – 8. Isaiah Qualls (N) 46.57; 400 relay – 2. Niles (Vaughn) Asmus, Alex Anderson, Gunner Sherer, Ben Bruckner) 43.77; 800 relay – 6. Dowagiac Union (Aaron Morgan, Jaylin Medrano, Isaiah Weatherspoon, Quentin Hill) 1:35.84; 1600 relay – 1. Edwardsburg (Lyle Schaible, Mobius Stubblefield, George Scupham, Jack Bell) 3:30.89; 3200 relay – 1. Buchanan (Jack Sherwood, Jacob Kuntz, Liam McBeth, John Keser) 8:24.20; shot put – 3. Bryce Young (N) 46-10; discus – 4. Quentin Hill (D) 126-3; high jump – 10. Jarret Seddon (B) 5-4; pole vault – 2. Matthew Finn (B) 12-6; long jump – 3. Ben Bruckner (N) 21-0.
- Girls**
- 100 – 6. Calliana Manfred (E) 13.38; 200 – 8. Khamari Mack (D) 28.58; 400 – 1. Alani Scott (N) 1:00.50; 800 – 13. Alaina Nagel (B) 2:49.75; 1600 – 4. Sadie Bonczynski (D) 5:51.18; 3200 – 1. Grace Leman (E) 11:49.85; 100 hurdles – 3. Sarina Mora (E) 16.77; 300 hurdles – 3. Nadia Poorman (D) 51.34; 400 relay – 4. Dowagiac Union (Shamyra Clark, Khamari Mack, Nadia Poorman, Ella Richter) 53.40; 800 relay –

4. Edwardsburg (Riley Petruska, Calliana Manfred, Piper Bryant, Cassidy Frentz) 1:54.43; 1600 relay – 3. Edwardsburg (Riley Petruska, Calliana Manfred, Layla Gableman, Georgia Babcock) 4:35.96; 4x800 relay – 3. Edwardsburg (Brynlee Landis, Jade Leith, Giselle Babcock, Layla Gableman) 10:50.40; shot put – 9. Alysha Boyne (N) 25-5; discus – 21. Janay Hawthorne (C) 59-9; high jump – 5. Loryana Harris (N) 4-4; pole vault – 2. Abigail Peat (E) 7-6; long jump – 1. Sarina Mora (E) 16-0.5.

MHSAA

From page B1

Junior High/
Middle School

Following the creation of similar events in other individual sports, the Council approved a Wrestling Committee recommendation to have the MHSAA act as a presenting sponsor for junior high/middle school Individual Wrestling Regionals to be competed at the conclusions of the Winter 1 and 2 seasons. These Regionals will be conducted by the wrestling coaches association. Junior high/middle school participants may compete in only one Regional, and this event will not count as one of the 10 allowed during the junior high/middle school season.

Officials

The Council approved an Officials Review Committee recommendation related to officials who make aggressive and/or intentional physical contact with a student or coach. Officials who do so will be suspended for a minimum of 14 days and excluded from postseason assignments.

Sport Matters

Basketball – The Council approved a change in the point differential rule. Once a team trails by 40 points during the first half or 30 during the second, even if the margin becomes smaller than those standards, point-differential timing continues.

Competitive Cheer – The council approved Competitive Cheer Committee recommendations for new allowances for inversions at the high school level only.

Football – The Council approved a Football Committee recommendation allowing a team to participate in no more than one game of interscholastic football over five consecutive calendar days, and in no more than four interscholastic scrimmages and no more than nine games in one season (exclusive of the MHSAA Playoffs). A student

also shall not participate in more than one game or four quarters in one day, and in no more than five quarters during one football week. For the purposes of this regulation, a "football week" is defined as Wednesday to Tuesday.

Golf – The council approved a Golf Committee recommendation requiring a student to participate in at least eight dates of school team competition to be eligible to compete in the MHSAA Golf Tournament. If a school's varsity team plays fewer than 16 regular-season dates of competition, a student must instead participate in at least 50 percent of the varsity's regular-season dates to be eligible for the postseason.

Soccer – The Council approved a Soccer Committee recommendation to expand the Limited Team Membership allowance for college ID camps to permit unlimited participation during the girls season, as these camps are scheduled during the spring.

The Council also approved a committee recommendation to move Boys Soccer Semifinals to Tuesday during years when Halloween falls on the usual Semifinal day of Wednesday. This is set to occur next in 2029, 2035 and 2040.

Volleyball – The Council approved a pair of Volleyball Committee recommendations regarding the MHSAA Tournament. The first requires a team receiving a No. 1 or No. 2 seed in a Girls Volleyball District to have a minimum of 15 varsity match results.

The second will allow a textured volleyball to be used for the boys volleyball postseason beginning with the 2026-27 school year. Teams may continue to use a smooth or textured ball during regular-season play.

Wrestling – The Council approved a Wrestling Committee recommendation that will allow, at dual-meet tournaments with an odd number of teams, for eligible individual wrestlers from separate participating teams to assemble as one team and compete in the event.



Berrien Springs' Zion Ellis wins the 100-meter hurdles Friday during the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Track Meet.



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